

Calendar No. 48

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 534

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 26, 2017

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MAY 3, 2017

Reported by Mr. CORKER, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

AN ACT

To require the Secretary of State to take such actions as may be necessary for the United States to rejoin the Bureau of International Expositions, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “U.S. Wants to Com-
5 pete for a World Expo Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Bureau of International Expositions
2 (BIE) is the organization responsible for governing
3 World Fairs and International Expositions.

4 (2) Section 1(a) of Public Law 91-269 (22
5 U.S.C. 2801(a)) found that “international expo-
6 sitions * * * have a significant impact on the eco-
7 nomic growth of the region surrounding the expo-
8 sition and * * * are important instruments of na-
9 tional policy”.

10 (3) The United States has not been an active
11 member of the BIE since 2001.

12 (4) State and local governments and private en-
13 tities in the United States have continued to partici-
14 pate in international expositions held in foreign
15 countries as a means of promoting United States ex-
16 ports and creating jobs, but face significantly higher
17 costs for such participation because the United
18 States is not an active member.

19 (5) State and local governments and private en-
20 tities in the United States have expressed interest in
21 an international exposition being hosted in the
22 United States, but the bid of a United States city,
23 region, or State to host an international exposition
24 is unlikely to be successful if the United States is
25 not a member of the BIE.

1 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the United States should rejoin the BIE im-
4 mediately to promote domestic job creation, global
5 branding, and tourism to the United States;

6 (2) the Secretary of State, in partnership with
7 the Secretary of Commerce, State and local govern-
8 ments, and private and non-profit entities, should
9 take all necessary steps to facilitate the timely sub-
10 mission of a request to rejoin the BIE; and

11 (3) funding for the participation of the United
12 States in international expositions or other events
13 facilitated by the BIE should continue to be pri-
14 vately solicited and sourced, in accordance with ex-
15 isting law.

16 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION.**

17 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State is author-
18 ized to take such actions as the Secretary determines nec-
19 essary for the United States to rejoin and maintain mem-
20 bership in the BIE.

21 (b) **AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT PRIVATE CON-**
22 **TRIBUTIONS.**—In addition to funds otherwise available to
23 the Secretary to carry out this section, the Secretary is
24 authorized to accept contributions for such purpose.

25 (c) **NOTIFICATION.**—The Secretary of State shall no-
26 tify the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropria-

1 tions of the House of Representatives and the Committees
 2 on Foreign Relations and Appropriations of the Senate
 3 upon taking any action under subsection (a).

4 **SEC. 5. CONTINUATION OF PROHIBITION ON USE OF FED-**
 5 **ERAL FUNDS FOR WORLD'S FAIR PAVILIONS**
 6 **AND EXHIBITS.**

7 Nothing in this Act may be construed to authorize
 8 any obligation or expenditure prohibited by section 204
 9 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan For-
 10 eign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and
 11 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2452b) (relating to limitations on the
 12 obligation or expenditure of funds by the Department of
 13 State for a United States pavilion or exhibit at an inter-
 14 national exposition or world's fair registered by the BIE).

15 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

16 *This Act may be cited as the “U.S. Wants to Compete*
 17 *for a World Expo Act”.*

18 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

19 *Congress finds the following:*

20 *(1) The Bureau of International Expositions*
 21 *(BIE) is the organization responsible for governing*
 22 *World Fairs and International Expositions.*

23 *(2) Section 1(a) of Public Law 91–269 (22*
 24 *U.S.C. 2801(a)) found that “international expositions*
 25 *. . . have a significant impact on the economic growth*

1 of the region surrounding the exposition and . . . are
2 important instruments of national policy”.

3 (3) *The United States has not been an active*
4 *member of the BIE since 2001.*

5 (4) *State and local governments and private en-*
6 *tities in the United States have continued to partici-*
7 *pate in international expositions held in foreign*
8 *countries as a means of promoting United States ex-*
9 *ports and creating jobs, but face significantly higher*
10 *costs for such participation because the United States*
11 *is not an active member.*

12 (5) *State and local governments and private en-*
13 *tities in the United States have expressed interest in*
14 *an international exposition being hosted in the*
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16 *gion, or State to host an international exposition is*
17 *unlikely to be successful if the United States is not a*
18 *member of the BIE.*

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22 *mediately to promote domestic job creation, global*
23 *branding, and tourism to the United States; and*

24 (2) *the Secretary of State, in partnership with*
25 *the Secretary of Commerce, State and local govern-*

1 *ments, and private and non-profit entities, should*
 2 *take all necessary steps to facilitate the timely sub-*
 3 *mission of a request to rejoin the BIE.*

4 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION.**

5 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State is author-*
 6 *ized to take such actions as the Secretary determines nec-*
 7 *essary for the United States to rejoin and maintain mem-*
 8 *bership in the BIE.*

9 *(b) AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT PRIVATE CONTRIBU-*
 10 *TIONS.—In addition to funds otherwise available to the Sec-*
 11 *retary to carry out this section, the Secretary is authorized*
 12 *to accept contributions for such purpose.*

13 *(c) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State shall notify*
 14 *the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Appropriations of*
 15 *the House of Representatives and the Committees on For-*
 16 *ign Relations and Appropriations of the Senate upon tak-*
 17 *ing any action under subsection (a).*

18 **SEC. 5. CONTINUATION OF PROHIBITION ON USE OF FED-**
 19 **ERAL FUNDS FOR WORLD'S FAIR PAVILIONS**
 20 **AND EXHIBITS.**

21 *(a) CONTINUATION OF PROHIBITION.—Nothing in this*
 22 *Act may be construed to authorize any obligation or ex-*
 23 *penditure prohibited by section 204 of the Admiral James*
 24 *W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authoriza-*
 25 *tion Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2452b)*

1 *(relating to limitations on the obligation or expenditure of*
2 *funds by the Department of State for a United States pavil-*
3 *ion or exhibit at an international exposition or world's fair*
4 *registered by the BIE).*

5 **(b) PROHIBITION ON SOLICITATION OF FUNDS.**—*Sec-*
6 *tion 204(b)(1)(C) of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg*
7 *Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years*
8 *2000 and 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2452b(b)(1)(C)) is amended by*
9 *inserting after “expositions” the following: “, except that*
10 *no employees of the Department of State may, in their offi-*
11 *cial capacity, solicit funds to pay expenses for a United*
12 *States pavilion or other major exhibit at any international*
13 *exposition or world's fair registered by the Bureau of Inter-*
14 *national Expositions”.*

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